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# BID TO CUT HOMES LIST

## Reducing 'unrealistic housing demands' would free up staff

By Oliver Evans

**CHERWELL'S housing waiting list is to be cut by 70 per cent overnight in a bid to curb "unrealistic" demands for properties.**

Bosses at Cherwell District Council are to take 2,800 people off its 4,000-strong waiting list – of which just 414 got homes last year.

It says they do not have a "realistic" chance of being housed yet dealing with their requests takes up valuable staff time.

But there are fears those in need will be stuck for help.

The council is responsible for prioritising social housing through providers like Sanctuary Housing.

People are placed in one of five bands but the Conservative-run council is now set to axe bands four and five, the least needy.

A council report says: "At present anyone can go on the council's housing register. Most have little or no prospects of securing social housing."

It said the change – allowed through the Government's Localism Act – would "enable staff resources to be more focused". It will also free up staff to deal with a "significant" expected rise in queries from changes to the welfare system, it adds.

Cherwell housing chief Debbie Pickford said: "It is a cultural change. They think 'my mum and dad got a council housing, you have to supply me with one?' Sorry, why? If you are adequately housed and you can afford to openly rent, you are not vulnerable."

Yet she insisted the council was working to get private homes built to help "aspirational" people.

She cited its Build! scheme, which is seeking land for affordable housing and empty homes to help people bring back into use.

But Clare Norton, of the Banbury youth homelessness charity BYHP, said: "It is more and more difficult now for under 25s to get any kind of housing support. This is only going to make it worse."

Some youngsters have been considered "vulnerable" by BYHP but not the council, she warned, with benefit changes adding to the problem.

Labour group leader Patrick Cartledge said: "I come from a generation where local authorities used to provide social housing for all.

"We now have a system where everybody is expected to buy their own home, which is virtually impossible at the moment, or opt for private rented accommodation, which is absolutely extortionate.

"The local authority should be there to provide housing where there is need."

Liberal Democrat group leader Tim Emptage said: "I understand why the council is doing this, but I am extremely nervous that people who have a genuine need that may not be reflected in their category could be removed from the list."

People in band four have "moderate" needs or are in "unsatisfactory" housing, while people in band five have "adequate" housing.

The new policy is set to be agreed by the council's executive on Monday.

LEFT: Clare Norton, of the BYHP

BELOW: Housing chief Debbie Pickford

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New hospitals chief in Christmas pledge

# NHS in U-turn over axing of seasonal cash

By Amanda Williams

**A HEALTH trust, which axed Christmas party funds for hundreds of nurses, has made a U-turn and decided celebrations will now go ahead.**

About 717 staff, working at community hospitals across Oxfordshire, had been told that a donation of up to £35 each towards a Christmas party would be withdrawn as "it did not provide sufficient patient benefit".

But last week, the new chief executive of the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Stuart Bell, said he would make sure the staff were recognised for their hard work.

A spokesman said: "Oxford Health NHS FT did make changes to the Charitable Funds Guidelines earlier this year to ensure that donations were spent appropriately.

"The reasons for the decision to change the guidelines relating to funds for staff Christmas celebrations were to ensure a consistent approach within the organisation and to support the equitable use of funds across the trust.

"The trust is absolutely committed to supporting patients and staff to celebrate Christmas.

"We will certainly be making sure that there are arrangements in place that will allow sites/teams to hold celebrations for the benefit of patients and staff."

Mr Bell added: "We recognise the hard work and dedication of our staff and also how important it is for our staff, and our patients, to be able to celebrate Christmas.

"We will be letting staff know shortly how the trust will be supporting teams to mark the holiday period."

# Accident verdict follows cancer man's rare 'chemotherapy' death

**CHEMOTHERAPY "hastened" the death of a football-mad 22-year-old, an inquest found.**

**Chipping Norton FC player Shaun Weller died on May 2, two days after beginning chemotherapy for a rare form a liver cancer.**

**The window cleaner, a father-of-one, died at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury, after suffering a cardiac arrest.**

**Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter recorded a verdict that Mr Weller's death was an accident after hearing from medics.**

**His family afterwards praised the NHS and paid tribute to a "considerate" son.**

**Mr Salter said: "It does seem to me that the treatment of chemotherapy hastened his death. That is not to say there was any negligence in the treatment.**

**"Medical treatment does sometimes result in death or hasten death. That may be because of some adverse reaction or complication that can't be anticipated."**

**In a statement, GP Dr Stephen Quelch said he referred Mr Weller for scans after his patient complained of chest pains.**

**He was diagnosed with the terminal disease on February 2 and oncologist Dr Kinnari Patel saw him on March 22.**

**Because the cancer was so rare, further help was sought from specialists at London's Royal Free Hospital on treatment, she said.**

**Dr Patel said: "Shaun expressed the wish to have anything that might be beneficial, no matter how toxic it was."**

**She said: "I wonder if some very rare event has happened with chemotherapy that I don't think we could have foreseen."**

**But she said the cancer could have "overwhelmed" his body.**

**Consultant pathologist Ben Phillips said: "If he hadn't started on chemotherapy he wasn't likely to have died at that time."**

Shaun Weller

**Mr Weller, from Cotswold Crescent, Chipping Norton, played for the first team of Chipping Norton FC and was father to Tiana, now three.**

**His mother said: "We never felt that anyone was to blame. It never entered our heads. Everyone was really considerate."**

**The family "never wanted to hear anything negative" about his prognosis, she said, adding: "Where there is life, there is hope. That is what you have got to believe in."**

**An August charity football match at his former club raised £2,000 to support his daughter and Oxford University cancer research.**

**A further charity fundraising cake and coffee event will be held at Chipping Norton Town Hall next Wednesday, from 9am to midday.**

# Caring project's chief is nominated for Tesco mum of the year

A MOTHER, who founded a project that helps those less fortunate, has been shortlisted for a top award.

Jill Edge, from Banbury, is a finalist in the Tesco Mum of the Year 2013 competition after being nominated by her daughter, Leona for "being mum to hundreds."

Ms Edge founded the Sunshine Centre in Banbury 15 years ago, developing the project into a vital support system for families, single parents, vulnerable children and those in need.

The Lottery-funded centre provides a drop-in advice service, childcare courses and training courses for parents, as well as summer schools and day trips.

Ms Edge said: "Being nominated for this award by my daughter means so much to me I cannot express my feelings in words."

She added: "I am a very lucky person, with a job that I love, working with a community which has so much to give and teach others. It can be very demanding but I have always had the support of my family which has made balancing work and home easier for me."

Judging takes place this month and the award ceremony will be staged in March at The Savoy Hotel, London.

# Bulk-buying bid to drive down the cost of energy

Cherwell District Council's Nigel Morris

**A COUNTY-WIDE bulk buying scheme could be set up through council leaders in a bit to drive down rising energy prices.**

Council leaders hope they can secure a cheaper deal for domestic electricity and gas customers if enough sign up with energy firms.

A Cherwell District Council report says the council should "support and promote" the scheme, possibly using firm iChoosr as an intermediary.

It says: "There is likely to be a positive impact economically for those residents who sign up to

**By Oliver Evans**

the scheme and receive a more competitive, lower price for their energy."

The Government announced £5m in funding for such "collective energy" schemes in September in a bid to tackle fuel poverty.

More than 1,600 people have joined a pilot scheme being run by South Lakeland District Council in Cumbria.

The report adds: "A collective energy purchasing and switching scheme across more districts will make the scheme more successful as there is strength in numbers."

Lead council member for clean and green Nigel Morris said: "Even if we got ten per cent of Cherwell homes signed up, that would be 5,000 or 6,000, so it would be a beneficial bargaining tool.

"Fuel poverty is something that is very much in the forefront of people's minds.

"People are hard pressed and having to make ends meet. If we can do a little bit to help then that is something we ought to do."

British Gas prices go up six per cent this month while electricity provider SSE put up prices by nine per cent last month.

Cherwell will now seek support from Oxford City, West Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire councils.

The scheme would mirror a bulk-buying programme for heating oil run by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, which has more than 800 members.

Cherwell's ruling executive will be asked to further explore the proposal when it meets on Monday.

## InBRIEF

### Election date

■ **Three candidates will fight it out in a by-election for the Banbury Ruscote Ward of Cherwell District Council.**

**UKIP's David Burton, Labour Party candidate Gordon Ross and Pat Tompson, of the Conservative Party, will compete for the seat.**

**The election will take place on Thursday, November 15.**

### Calendar date

■ SHOPPERS can meet the stars of a forthcoming production of *Calendar Girls* while helping raise charity cash on Sunday. Actors from Banbury Cross Players will join members of Hook Norton WI for an event to support Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research at Druckers Café, Market Square, Banbury, from 11am to 2pm.

### Candle drama

■ TWO adults and a baby were evacuated from a flat in West Bar, Banbury, after a candle started a fire in a storage heater on Sunday night. One adult was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation after a candle melted on a storage heater, causing it to smoke.


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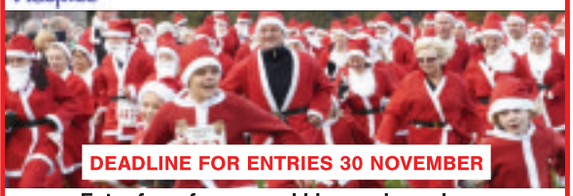

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# Women vie for business honours

BUSINESSWOMEN will battle it out for top awards next week.

The Banbury Women in Business Awards 2012 will take place on Wednesday at Rye Hill Golf Club, Milcombe.

The event will follow the Banbury Women in Business Conference 2012.

Nominess are:

● **Business Green Award:** Julie Briggs, BinSorted Recycling Ltd; Lisa Kershaw, Spot-Less Professional Valeting Services (UK) Ltd.

● **New Business Award**: Claire Dumbrek, Propel Technology; Lisa Hill, Oxfordshire Babysitting Company; Sarah Coles & Sharon Mallison, Prospect Personnel Solutions.

● **Established Business Award**: Kim Bendzak, Apple Construction Training Ltd; Linda Jones, Bretherton Solicitors LLP; Caroline Woodward, The Symphony Group.

● **Most Inspirational Woman within a Business Award**: Karen Matthews, Cherwell District Council; Jenny Dahlman, Auteur; Nadiya Virani-Bland, Brethertons Solicitors LLP.

● **Most Inspirational Woman Business Owner**: Gill Smith, Best Western Wroxton House Hotel; Kim Bendzak, Apple Construction Training Ltd; Nicky Gough, Cotswold Family Law.

● **Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award**: Eve Norman, Rebecca Burman & Lucy English, Oriental Turtle Dove Catering; Vikki Ostoja-Starzewska, Room to Read.

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## Costs are outstripping income

# Homes crisis looms over rising rents

**THE housing crisis in Oxfordshire is deepening as rents outstrip income, a report has warned.**

A new survey from the National Housing Federation shows rents rising faster than average incomes in Cherwell, as well as the rest of the county, which it warns is having a negative impact on the county economy.

Now experts are claiming people are being forced to move to cheaper areas or even out of Oxfordshire altogether.

The Home Truths survey claims years of not building enough homes was the root cause of the escalating problems.

The report shows average rents in Oxfordshire rose by four per cent in the first quarter of this year, from £897 to £934 a month, compared to the same period last year.

**By Andrew Smith**

The average income for Oxfordshire in 2011 was £23,494, according to the report, compared to £22,880 for 2010, a rise of three per cent.

Mark Crampton-Smith, director of letting agents College and County, said: "What concerns me most is that the outcome will be to drive people away."

The problem of rising rents has been made worse by Government cuts in housing benefits, which last year saw a drop of £150 per month for a four-bed house.

Warren Finney, South East lead manager for the National Housing Federation, said: "It's crunch time for our unsustainable housing market, with house prices and rents set to rocket in Oxfordshire as thousands of families are already struggling to afford their home.

"Being unable to afford the homes they need can stop people from moving for work. It also prevents young couples from starting families, having a huge impact on people's aspirations and ultimately affecting the economy.

"It's clear the chronic undersupply of new homes across Oxfordshire needs to be tackled now, to ease the financial pressure for families and Government."

**CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White has unveiled a revamped Black Boy Inn at Milton.**

**The *Hell's Kitchen* star has refurbished the watering hole, which he took over last year.**

**He said: "We are not a gastro pub. We are a pub selling good, honest food and serving a pint."**

## InBRIEF

### Cats riddle

**THREE cats have died as a result of suspected anti-freeze poisoning in Banbury.**

**The cats, were Casper, five; Toby, four, and James, 17. They died in Edinburgh Way, Bretch Hill, between Wednesday, October 17, and Thursday, October 18.**

**Police have said it was not known whether it was a malicious act or an accidental poisoning.**

**The RSPCA is investigating. Anyone with information should contact them on 0300 1234999.**

### Help sought

THE Windmill Centre, Deddington, is seeking a new booking secretary and committee members. A replacement is being sought for Joyce Minnear. Call Jim Flux on 01869 338153.


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## Headteacher reveals how free school will be linked to the local community

# Vision for new school

**AMERICAN-style sports, close links with businesses and specialising in history, will form part of the curriculum at North Oxfordshire's new free school.**

By Sam McGregor

Headteacher David Castles has revealed more details about how Heyford Park Free School will be run, its facilities, and his vision for the school.

Due to open next September to 60 reception and 60 Year Seven pupils, the school will eventually take 840 children with ages ranging from four to 19.

Former Oxford University graduate Mr Castles, 32, said the school would follow the GCSE and A-level path, and history would be among the core subjects.

All children will take a GCSE in foreign languages, and pupils will have links to local businesses throughout their school days.

With history as its special subject, the school will draw on the fascinating past of the former Cold War US Airforce base it will occupy. Work will begin next year to convert a former officers' mess into the school.

Youngsters will also get the benefit of an athletics track, racquet ball, baseball and basketball courts, a gym, tennis courts and pitches, which were all moth-balled after the Americans left in the 1990s. A school uniform has yet to be decided.

Mr Castles said: "I'm attracted not because of any political link to a free school, but by its community nature.

"We are trying to increase the opportunities for young people and need to respond to what the local community want and what the local needs are."

It is unclear how many jobs the school will create, but the next key appointments will be the leadership team.

This will include posts in developing the primary curriculum, and head of subject for English, maths and science, and a special educational needs co-ordinator.

Mr Castles also hopes to employ specialist teachers, such as those dealing in music and languages. They would be available to all children.

The headteacher, who is married to Renette, said: "One of the things which the school will benefit from is the community links.

"For a lot of children the transition to secondary school, can really stall their development at that stage.

"At Heyford Park they will not face this as we offer a continuous educational path."

He plans to give older children specific responsibilities and roles as they move through the year groups.

Younger and older children will also have separate play areas, but the school will introduce a mixed tutor group system, so all ages are integrated.

Admissions for Year Seven pupils starting next September will be dealt with by Oxfordshire County Council.

David Castles, the newly-appointed principal of Heyford Park Free School OX54883


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**Neelma Khan BDS London**
I graduated from Barts and the London and completed my vocational training in Stoke on Trent. I enjoy all aspects of dental care. I like to keep up to date with new research and am currently working towards completing my MJDF qualification.

**Punita Sharma BDS Manchester**
I graduated from The University of Manchester and then completed my training year at a practice in Sheffield. I am originally from Milton Keynes. I enjoy my job immensely and take great pride in trying to ensure that I am providing the best quality of care for all my patients. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, keeping fit, watching movies and travelling. Banbury has a great team and I look forward to my time working here.

**Bader Khrais DipChD Montpellier France**
I have worked in both NHS and private practices. I have been part of the team in Banbury Dental Practice for the past two years. I aim to provide my patients with a full range of treatment options tailored to their individual needs and wishes, in a calm and relaxed environment. Promoting excellent dental health, educating on prevention and caring for my patients with minimally invasive techniques are my key objectives.

# InCOURT

■ **WAYNE FENN**, 33, of Northfield Close, Oxford, convicted of stealing gardening equipment from B&Q, Banbury, on May 14. Community order made with supervision requirement. Told to pay £109 compensation to B&Q and £200 costs.

■ **ANDREW MARSHALL**, 27, of Samuelson Court, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis in Warwick Road, Banbury, on September 6. Also admitted shoplifting a bottle of Champagne worth £29.99 from Co-op in Burchester Place, Banbury, on August 5, and also stealing meat worth £6 from Co-op in Middleton Road, Banbury, on August 22. Fined £150, £15 victims' surcharge, £30 costs, and a total of £65.99 compensation.

■ **SEBASTIAN KWIATKOWSKI**, 28, of Hastings Close, Banbury, convicted of having articles on February 24 for use in the course of, or in connection with, theft of a motor vehicle – namely pliers and drill bits. Fined £850, £15 victims' surcharge, and £775 costs.

■ **DECLAN ALLEN**, 18, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted criminal damage to a television to the value of £60 in Dashwood Road, Banbury, on September 9. Discharged conditionally for three months. Told to pay £30 costs.

■ **JUSTIN SMITHWICK**, 38, of Park Road, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Milton on June 9. Had 123mg of alcohol in 100ml of urine, above the legal limit of 107mg. Fined £90, £15 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

# Police launch hunt for young house burglar

**POLICE would like to speak to this man in connection with an attempted burglary in Danesmoor.**

**The man was disturbed breaking into the property at about 7.55pm on Friday, October 19.**

**He was punched several times in the ribs and left side of his face by the victim before he ran off.**

**The burglar was described as white, aged in his early 20s, about 5ft 10in and of a muscular build.**

**He had shaved dark hair, very light eyes and wore a bomber jacket with a hood underneath.**

**Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.**

■ Transport chiefs try to find replacement services

# Second school bus firm goes under

**TRANSPORT chiefs were this week still working to sort out school bus services in North Oxfordshire, which were hit after another bus company closed.**

Bowen Travel Group, which owns Brackley-based school bus company Jeffs Coaches, went into administration on Thursday of last week.

Jeffs Coaches ran routes to Cropredy Primary School; St John's Primary School, Banbury; Blessed George Napier School, Banbury, and Magdalen College School, Brackley.

Oxfordshire County Council said 178 pupils were transported on the routes.

The collapse comes just weeks after Witney-based firm RH Transport, which ran a range of services including school buses, went out of business.

County council spokesman Paul Smith said: "The council will go to out to tender for the six affected bus routes and we expect to be able to announce the results of that process in the latter part of the week.

"The half-term break and the fact that we are talking about six school bus routes, rather than more than 40 school and non-school routes, means that this exercise is not quite as time sensitive as the one that was required following the RH Transport situation earlier this month.

"Nonetheless, we aim to have everything sorted out and clearly presented to schools, pupils and their families, so that everybody knows how things will work on that first morning back at school on Monday, November 5."

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## Carer tells of life living with vulnerable adults to encourage others

# The joy of sharing

By **Freddie Whittaker**
bicester@nqo.com

**A MAN who shares his home and life with vulnerable adults has spoken of the joy it brings to his household.**

Bob Pettit, 61, is one of 90 shared-lives carers in Oxfordshire, and has offered adults with physical or learning difficulties a roof over their heads for a decade.

Now, to coincide with "shared lives week", the father-of-two has shared his story in a bid to encourage other home carers to come forward.

Mr Pettit lives with his partner Sam, 40, her three-year-old daughter, Ella, and two vulnerable people he cares for at his home in North Oxfordshire.

He said: "I've been doing this for ten years, since it was called adult family placement.

"I felt I had something to offer. I had a house, two kids and wanted a home-based job.

"We offer them stability, hopefully a sense of home and somewhere warm and safe to live."

He said the length of time people stayed depended on their needs.

Some stay for a few weeks to give their families or regular carers a break, and others end up staying a lot longer.

He said: "Sometimes it's respite care, somewhere to re-group, but then again one chap came to us eight years ago for respite and is still with us.

"We have two full-timers, and another one on the way, and they all get on well with my son and daughter and each other. It's great because there's always something going on in the house.

"Last year we all went to Florida together."

The Pettit family currently have two people living with them, Adam, 24, and David, 40.

David said: "I've lived with Bob for ten years and we have been doing all sorts of things together. We go on holidays together. It's been a great experience for me.

"I used to live with my family, but I decided it was time to move on. Staying with Bob has given me an awful lot to look forward to. It's been really good. It's given me a lot of confidence."

From left, Bob Pettit, three-year-old Ella, mum Sam Jolly and lodgers Adam and David

Arash Fatemian, the county council's adult services chief, said: "There's some great work being done, and some excellent friendships formed, through the shared lives project.

"There are adults in Oxfordshire who need care and support but they either do not want, or need high levels of residential care. In many cases, a member of their family or a close friend provides what is needed. But sometimes this is not possible.

"Shared Lives carers come from every walk of life. Some join with considerable experience of providing support, others have no experience at all, but do have the right qualities and approach."

Carers have to pass an assessment process and an enhanced CRB check before they can take people on. In return for their services, carers are paid between £300 and £400 per week, depending on the needs of their service users.

To find out more, call 01865 897971, email sharedlives@oxfordshire.gov.uk or visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives


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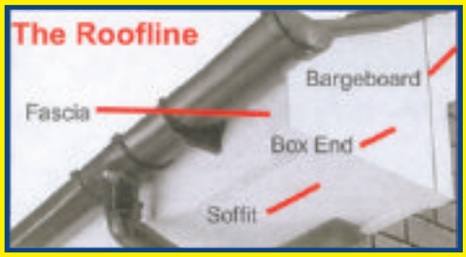


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# InBRIEF

## Family's appeal for prizes

■ DONATIONS are being sought for the third annual fundraising day in memory of a premature baby.

The family of Finnley Froude – the four-month-old baby who died at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital in 2011 – will hold the third Finnley's Day on February 2 at Banbury Town Hall.

The previous events raised £12,483 for the hospital's Support for the Sick Newborn and their Parents charity. The family are now seeking raffle prizes for next year.

To help, email Finnleyfroude@hotmail.co.uk or call 07717 71062 or 07795 234292.

# Charity reveals its special school may close

**A SCHOOL for severely disabled children looks set to close its doors next year.**

**The charity Action for Children last week announced plans to close its Penhurst School in Chipping Norton.**

**Operational director of children's services Barbara Street said the charity had "reluctantly made the extremely difficult decision" to propose the closure of the school.**

**She said: "We do understand that many people will be anxious about this news, but despite our best efforts the number of children and young people at Penhurst is decreasing as there is a falling demand for providing this kind of care.**

**"As a result, the service is proving unsustainable and is losing income – projected to run a substantial deficit over this financial year.**

**"We remain absolutely committed to meeting the needs of the children and young people at the school and their families.**

**"If the decision is taken to close Penhurst, we would work with a number of other organisations to ensure that all the children and young people at the school continue to receive high-quality care."**

**A final decision will be made by the charity in February, and the school is currently consulting with staff and the community on the matter.**

**Anyone wanting to give their views should write to Penhurst Feedback, Penhurst School, New Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5LN or email penhurst@actionforchildren.org.uk**

**The announcement comes after the charity refused to confirm whether or not closure was being considered when contacted by the *Banbury Cake* in May.**

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■ Plea for seasonal gifts for front-line troops

# Parcelling up a boost to morale

By Emma Harrison

**KNOWING a loved one will be away over Christmas is an upsetting reality that thousands of armed forces families are facing this year.**

For Chipping Norton mother Jo-Anne Box, saying goodbye to her brother, Andrew Rorke, when he left for a six-month tour of Afghanistan in September was one of the hardest things she has had to do.

But the 32-year-old decided she could still make a difference to his Christmas Day for him – and his colleagues – by packing present parcels for the charity Support Our Soldiers.

Mrs Box, who, along with her mother, Anneke Rorke, is calling for donations from the community. She said: "My brother left just three weeks ago. We were so worried and so upset about him going, we had to do something to take our minds off things.

"This is for all the soldiers in our community. I wanted to do something for a few of them, but it turned into something a lot bigger."

She added: "The guys appreciate anything. It gives them a boost, so they come out fighting a lot harder to come home to us."

Chipping Norton father Mr Rorke, 33, is a staff sergeant in the Royal Logistics Corps, based at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon.

Mrs Box, who is trying to gather enough donations to send 200 parcels to Oxfordshire troops, said: "It is all very loving and shows them we are thinking about them. There is definitely a lot of community spirit around."

Businesses in the area, including Beales, the Co-op, The Fox Hotel, Kingham Shop, Barron's, Kingham Royal British Legion Club and Boots have already pledged their support.

Youngsters at Chipping Norton Pre-School have been decorating shoe boxes and will be making Christmas cards for the appeal.

The Ace Centre nursery in Chipping Norton will also be decorating boxes and Chipping Norton High School will be making Christmas cards to go into the boxes.

Jo-Anne Box, daughter Sophie and son Luke with some of the luxuries which she's putting into Christmas parcels for soldiers in Afghanistan

Donations should be made by the end of November, when a group of volunteers will be packing them into parcels.

A coffee morning is also being staged to raise cash for Support our Soldiers, at The Fox Hotel, Market Place, from 10am to noon.

Anyone who would like to support the campaign, or those who know someone on tour who would appreciate a parcel, should email oxford@supportoursoldiers.co.uk or search for Operation Appreciation Oxfordshire on *Facebook*.

To find out more about Support Our Solders, visit supportour soldiers.co.uk

● The Ministry of Defence urges people only to send donations to troops through charities, which follow strict guidelines.

These include the Operations Welfare Fund, uk4u Thanks! – the Christmas Box charity, Support Our Soldiers and Operation Shoebox.

New breed of rodent that has become resistant to poisons

# Looming problem of the county's 'super rat'

**OXFORDSHIRE has been infested by a new breed of mutant rat which is resistant to all legal poisons – and the problem seems to be getting worse.**

The mutant gene that first emerged on a farm north of Newbury is spreading north into Oxfordshire, according to a new study.

Oxfordshire pest controller Rob Eckton said he is getting more calls to deal with rats than ever before.

He mostly eliminates rats using poison, but he also sometimes shoots them.

He said "There are currently more poison-resistant rats.

"I was called to one Oxfordshire farm where the rats managed to eat 30kg of poisoned bait. We had to shoot over 200 – and I am talking about big rats.

"This problem is definitely getting worse.

"Last year, as a private contractor, I laid 500kg of poison bait. Previous years have been nowhere near that.

"Especially in the last three weeks as we come into rat season, it has been crazy."

In the UK, there are only about eight poisons that can be used outside, because of the risk of secondary poisoning to birds of prey, who eat rats.

Indoors, licensed pest controllers like Mr Eckton can use the more powerful

By Pete Hughes

brodifacoum, which is four times as effective, or deadly contact dust. This is 1,000 times more powerful than bait poisons.

Now the Health and Safety Executive is looking at allowing outdoor use of the more potent poisons to combat the resistant gene.

Colin Prescott, of Reading University, co-authored the study by the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group, which has revealed the spread of the poison-resistant gene in rats.

The study found that eight out of nine rats sampled in Oxfordshire were fully poison-resistant.

Mr Prescott said: "Rats are geared up for a massive explosive growth, and the whole problem is they will spread with this new gene.

"By poisoning the rats you might kill off 50 per cent of the population – none of which have the resistant gene.

"The population will quickly return to full size but then all the rats will have the rogue gene."

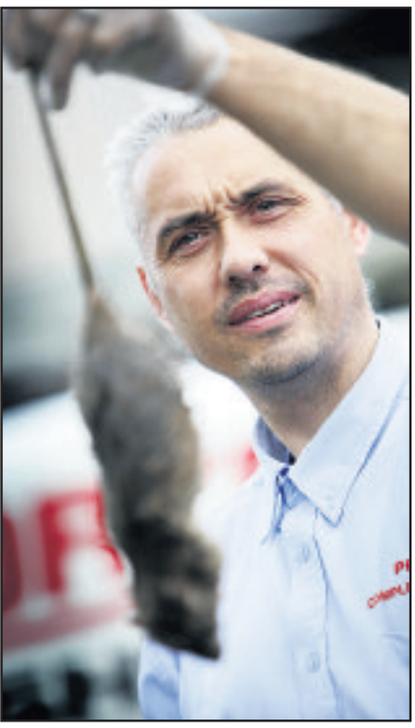
The gene first mutated on a farm north of Newbury in the 1990s. Mr Prescott was called in because of his expertise in rodent control – and was shocked to discover the new gene. One time, we dissected a 400g rat and he had eaten 450g of poisoned bait."

Mr Prescott estimated that by using the stronger poison brodifacoum, which is currently banned outside, the mutant gene could be wiped out in six to eight weeks.

Alan Buckle, Mr Prescott's co-author on the paper, said: "People keep using these poisons and it is piling up in the food chain. This, in turn, is damaging for the environment.

"But you can use pretty small quantities of stronger poisons more usefully."

The HSE is hoping to publish the results of its decision on whether to allow the use of stronger poisons out of doors early next year.



Rob Eckton who is seeing increasing numbers of rat problems in the county OX55197

## InBRIEF

### Town bedsit plan gets approval

**COUNCILLORS have approved plans to convert Banbury town centre offices into 19 bedsits. Cherwell District Council's planning committee approved the plan to turn the offices – partly over Cox & Robinson chemists in Horse Fair – into bedsits with communal kitchen facilities.**

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LOCAL BUSINESS ACCELERATORS CAMPAIGN

# Competition aims to give firms head start

By **Andrew Smith**
bicester@nqo.com

THREE Oxfordshire firms stand to gain from the top prizes in our Local Business Accelerators competition.

Winners will receive free advertising in Newquest Oxfordshire titles along with the support of a top business mentor.

Local press advertising is a proven force to drive growth for small and medium size enterprises, as 60 per cent of small business owners agree that advertising in their local newspaper is the best way to attract customers in their area.

And the same can be said for mentoring. A mentor is not someone to give specific support to develop a business but more of a listening ear for entrepreneurs who can tap into their vast knowledge.

Ninety percent of businesses that secured help from a mentor reported seeing the benefit, with three quarters citing an improvement in their ability to develop business plans and strategy.

The three mentors in the competition are returning for a second year and bring a wealth of experience across different business sectors.

Brendon Cross is the founder and managing director of Witney-based telecoms firm STL Communications.

He has also just set up his second Hexagon business centre in Witney providing flexible accommodation and services to small firms.

Mr Cross was a mentor to Wayne Campbell, founder of Banbury corporate health monitoring specialist Healthy Performance, one of the winners of last year's LBA competition.

He said: "Wayne is a great example of what the competition is all about. It seemed to give him so much confidence and he was genuinely surprised to be one of the winners. Now we are looking for another Wayne Campbell."

Fellow mentor Bob Urwin, owner of Oxford letting agents Martin & Co, has long experience of working in the publishing industry and now running his own business.

He said: "Last year's competition was a real eye-opener. Success achieved by the entrepreneurs we talked to varied considerably, but one thing that stood out was that each and every one was passionate about what they were doing.

"This is what I will be looking for again but, more than this, I will be looking for consistency in effort and results.

"For me, business is all about believing in what you are doing, constantly driving and challenging yourself, and not taking your foot off the gas".

And the third mentor, Mike Jennings, chairman of business park operator Jennings, spends a great deal of time mentoring businesses and playing a part in their success.

He said: "We are particularly looking for energy, enthusiasm and passion in the young entrepreneurs. That's what will drive them to grow their businesses and sustain them through the hard times."

The potential benefits of mentoring are considerable.

According to a recent survey of business owners, 60 per cent of those who use external advice improved their business performance as a result.

The campaign has already seen hundreds of businesses across different sectors feel the effects of this acceleration and many more stand to benefit in the coming year.

## GET INVOLVED

- **BUSINESSES aged between one and five years can enter the competition.**
- **If you run such a business, or know anyone who does, and want the chance to receive invaluable business support and advertising space in Newsquest Oxfordshire's titles, visit accelerateme.co.uk for more information and how to enter. Entries close on November 16.**
- **If you want to speak to us about advertising in any Newsquest Oxfordshire publication, call 01865 425275.**

**TALKING BUSINESS: Witney entrepreneur Brendon Cross, *left,* who is on the judging panel, with Wayne Campbell, of Healthy Performance, who he has mentored** Picture: OX49759 **Damian Halliwell**

## £10,000 BOOST

**LBA is being run through hundreds of local newspapers across the country and now the competition has received an extra boost to make it even more attractive.**

**The overall winner will receive a £10,000 cash prize, courtesy of the Business Growth Fund, an independent business established to help the UK's fast growing smaller and medium-sized businesses to develop.**

**The Business Growth Fund's contribution means the prize pot for the overall LBA winning business now consists of a year's mentoring from the campaign's ambassador, *Dragon's Den* star Deborah Meaden, a local advertising campaign devised by a top London creative advertising agency, as well as the £10,000 cash prize.**

**BGF chief executive Stephen Welton said: "Local Business Accelerators is an excellent initiative."**

## MEET THE JUDGES

**BRENDON Cross is a Witney-based entrepreneur who set up Spire Telecom in 1995, building it into a major business which was sold to Carphone Warehouse in a multi-million-pound deal in 2004.**

**Mr Cross then started STL Communications and has grown it to the point where it now employs more than 40 staff with a turnover in excess of £5m.**

**He also spends a lot of time mentoring small businesses and just set up the second Hexagon Business Centre providing accommodation and support for start-up and growing firms in Witney.**

**BOB Urwin joined the management team of the *Oxford Journal* in 1973 and went on to set up free newspapers around the country including the Courier group in Oxford, which merged with the Milestone group in 2003 and raised £10m after floating on the Stock Exchange.**

**At that point he bought the Oxford franchise for property lettings business Martin & Co which he set up with daughter Claire.**

**It has grown significantly and now employs eight staff.**

**MIKE Jennings is chairman of the Jennings family business which runs the Monument Business Park in Chalgrove, as well as the business park at The Boundary, Garsington and three centres in Oxford, Abingdon and Didcot.**

**Mr Jennings also runs Oxford Business Mentors, which provides mentoring for start-up businesses and entrepreneurs.**

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**JOIN HANDS** Sweet Swindon single mum, 39, loves reading, cinema, dining and more, looking for new friends and maybe someone special. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104988**

**LONG LASTING HAPPINESS** Thoughtful Oxford female, 41, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427 or send a text to 80360**

**SPARKS FLYING** Fun, curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 44, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093**

**FOR HAPPINESS** Upbeat Swindon female, 45, 5'4'', would like to meet a male, to go on dates, share company and hopefully form a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127393 or send a text to 80360**

**OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION** Laid-back Swindon female, 46, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129 or send a text to 80360**

**IT COULD BE US** Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360**

**OUR MOMENT** Lovely, hard-working, petite woman, 48, likes socialising, city pubs, eating out, seeks similar guy, for fun, laughter & hopefully more. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 102616 or send a text to 80360**

**SMOOTH MOVE** Slim, blue-eyed Trowbridge female, 48, 5'2'', GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109958 or send a text to 80360**

**LOST FOR WORDS** Swindon girl, 48, enjoys socialising, skiing, badminton and more, searching for a down to earth man. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108304**

**START LIVING AGAIN** Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

**SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU** Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360**

**A DEEP CONNECTION** Big, bubbly Swindon lady, 54, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys music, reading, going out & cinema, looking to meet a like-minded white guy, 40-50, kind, loyal and fun, for a true relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115425**

**I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT** Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360**

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**SHALL WE DANCE?** Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 55, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

**RECIPE FOR LOVE** Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 56, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132 or send a text to 80360**

**HEADLINE NEWS** Sincere, reliable Wiltshire lady, 56, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable male, for company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360**

**FRIENDS FIRST** Intelligent, attractive Wiltshire female, 56, widow, brunette, 5'2'', likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360**

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**GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME** Separated, caring Devizes female, 57, genuine, loving, GSOH, likes reading, cooking, meals and cosy nights in, seeking a tall man, for friendship, leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132887 or send a text to 80360**

**MEANINGFUL TIMES** Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215**

**DO YOU HAVE A KIND HEART?** Oxford widow, 57, 5'3'', blue-eyes, works full-times, enjoys socialising, walking my dogs, theatre, eating out & family life, seeking a decent man, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123053 or send a text to 80360**

**JUST THE TWO OF US** Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, cosy times and more, seeking a friend and soul mate, to go ahead with me in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 463351 or send a text to 80360**

**CLOSE TO HAPPINESS** Cuddly, young looking 58yr old Salisbury woman, likes travel, reading crime thrillers, all kinds of music, looking for a rugged man to make me smile & share fun times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119145**

**LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE** Cuddly Chipping Norton widow, 59, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132223 or send a text to 80360**

**THE LONG TERM** Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

**SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN** Separated, attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360**

**LOVE IS FOR SHARING** Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 60, med build, 5'6'', GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161**

**GENUINE AND CARING** Oxfordshire widow, 61, 5'6'', slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487**

**OPEN YOUR HEART** Slim, attractive Swindon widow, 61, 5'4'', enjoys walks, sports, travel, country pubs and socialising, seeking a similar male, to share interests together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125012 or send a text to 80360**

**FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE...** Sociable, active Witney woman, 62, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066**

**KNOW WHAT MATTERS** Upbeat, cultured, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360**

**SOCIABLE SORT** Tall, blonde Wiltshire girl, 62, enjoys cars, walks, gardening and more, searching for a sociable man, with an active lifestyle, for a loving and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 452750**

**CHATS OVER A PINT?** Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7'', slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112241 or send a text to 80360**

**THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE** Divorced Swindon female, 65, 5'5'', works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114628**

**HONEST RELATIONSHIP** Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5'', slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360**

**MY SIMPLE WISH** Active, outgoing Bicester female, 69, likes walks, places of interest, gardening, crosswords, family life, would like to meet a good male friend. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 133167 or send a text to 80360**

**DOWN TO EARTH** Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 71, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses, cuddles, looking for a N/S, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Last caller pleave leave contact number. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288**

**GREAT COMPANIONS** Wiltshire widow, 73, likes music, theatre, travel and more, searching an easygoing gent, for companionship, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104917 or send a text to 80360**

**NICE TO BE WITH** Young-minded, retired Chippenham lady, 78, 5'7'', cuddly-build, likes crosswords, holidays, home life, seeking a nice gent, to share good company together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128540 or send a text to 80360**

**FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE** Genuine, active Oxford male, 28, slim build, 5'7'', caring, enjoys the gym, cycling and generally keeping fit, would like to meet a similar female, honest, GSOH and fun, for friendship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122941**

**HOPING TO MEET YOU** Kind, caring Henley guy, 30, easy to talk to and always up for a laugh, looking for some one special, who is honest, kind and chatty, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124455**

**WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER** Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773**

**READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE** Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 40, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095 or send a text to 80360**

**PERFECT HARMONY** Fun-loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 41, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035 or send a text to 80360**

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**SOMEONE TO CLICK WITH** Honest, genuine N/S guy, 43, 6'1'', medium build, no ties, lives in Swindon, likes theatre, bowling, meals out, seeks single female, for ltr. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107035**

**ENJOY GOOD COMPANY** Honest male, 44, 6'3'', stocky build, gsoh, enjoys sports, travel, cosy times in, social drinks, seeks fun loving female, for happier times. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360**

**FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT** Outgoing black male, 44, smoker, no ties, own flat, likes pubs, eating out, cinema, clubs, holidays, searching for a like-minded woman, 35-45, for true love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123703**

**COME CLOSER** Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 45, looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080 or send a text to 80360**

**THE RIGHT STUFF** Warm, decent and decent Witney man, 45, looking for an easygoing, sympathetic female, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132870 or send a text to 80360**

**LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO** Happy, active Abingdon man, 46, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-65, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114348 or send a text to 80360**

**WE CAN BE HAPPY** Fun male, 44, likes meals out, keeping fit, weekends away, 5ft9in, seeking friendship maybe more with someone special. Banbury. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 854670**

**OFFER ME YOUR LOVE** Happy go lucky Windsor male, 46, enjoys cooking, walks, tennis, swimming and theatre, looking for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126273 or send a text to 80360**

**CHANGE OF LUCK?** Warm, blue-eyed Banbury male, 46, 6ft, kind and truthful, intelligent and thoughtful, searching for an understanding woman, to share and enjoy a quiet and happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125562 or send a text to 80360**

**IT'S NOT UNUSUAL** Friendly Witney male, 47, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115039 or send a text to 80360**

**NEED SOMEONE SPECIAL** Happy-go-lucky Banbury male, 48, works part-time, would like to meet a woman, who like walks, social drinks and dining out. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131071 or send a text to 80360**

**HAPPY TIMES AHEAD** Caring, genuine Banbury guy, 48, GSOH, solvent, romantic, enjoys going out for a meal/drink, country walks and animals, searching for a nice lady, funny and kind, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126861 or send a text to 80360**

**LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH** Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7'', brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360**

**LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH** Friendly, warm hearted Abingdon male, 50, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring matured guy, to enjoy good times together, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

**TIME FOR A CHANGE** Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479 or send a text to 80360**

**ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP** Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 51, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360**

**INTO THE SUNSET** Friendly, sociable Oxford male, 51, polite, caring, solvent, likes gardening, sports, music, walking, cinema, nights out and cooking, seeking a bubbly and honest female, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124655 or send a text to 80360**

**ALL TO LOVE** Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 52, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

**SIMILAR IDEAS** Down-to-earth Kidlington male, 52, enjoys swimming, walks, cinema and dining, searching for a loving female, for a steady relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125598 or send a text to 80360**

**PASSION FLOWER** Young-looking, Wallingford 59yr old, 5'9'', dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122**

**CONNECT WITH ME** Sincere Oxford male, 59, slim-build, 5'8'', likes cinema, swimming, country walks with my dogs, seeking an honest, caring lady, to spend quality times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128560 or send a text to 80360**

**THE BEST IS YET TO BE** Caring, romantic Bicester male, 59, works full-times, loves weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady 48-55 to share life and love with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118655**

**CONFIDENTLY YOURS** Widowed chap, 60, 5'10'', own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964**

## You can also reply to people by text

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**NOT TO BE MISSED** Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360**

**TAKE CHARGE** Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 54, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836 or send a text to 80360**

**A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER** Divorced, young at heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632**

**LET'S FIND EACH OTHER** Recently separated Bicester chap, 55, 6'1'', many interests, seeking a woman for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121412**

**THE HONEST KIND** Easygoing male, 57, from Oxford, likes cinema, sports, nights in, seeks female for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110649**

**SHARING GOOD TIMES** Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

**CARING NATURE** Articulate, vigorous and astute Witney man, 58, looking for a funny, innovative woman, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595**

**LONG LASTING HAPPINESS** Fairly fit Banbury man, 60, 5'11'', fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122384**

**POSITIVE ATTITUDE** Fit Latino male, 61, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

**SO GOOD TOGETHER** Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 61, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085**

**ROOM WITH A VIEW** Easygoing Oxford male, 62, likes wining and dining, theatre, holidays, pubs, clubs, seeking a genuine female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126505 or send a text to 80360**

**READY TO MOVE ON** Young, caring Didcot guy, 63, 5'9'', enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117043 or send a text to 80360**

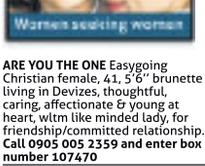
**MAKE A FRIEND** Warm, romantic Bicester male, 65, searching for an interesting, active woman, for days out, friendship, meals and good company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851123**

**KINDRED SPIRITS** Presentable, educated chap, 66, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wltm attractive, vivacious lady, for romance. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101058**

**JUST AN ORDINARY GUY** Friendly, faithful Didcot male, 67, 5'9'', likes rugby, football, DIY, gardening and much more, searching for a loving woman, to make life complete. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285**

**HAPPY TIMES AHEAD** Free-spirited Kidlington guy, likes old classic motor cycles and cars, seeking a nice lady, for friendship, leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 129150 or send a text to 80360**

**SOUL TO SOUL** Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'5'', N S, i enjoys pubs meals, car boot sales, crosswords and cosy times, wltm charming lady, to share quality times. Oxford area prefered. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**




**ARE YOU THE ONE** Easygoing Christian female, 41, 5'6'' brunette living in Devizes, thoughtful, caring, affectionate & young at heart, wltm like minded lady, for friendship/committed relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107470**

**HOPE THIS WORKS** Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360**

**BEST FRIENDS FOREVER** Swindon lady, 48, looking for straight female friends. Into things like cycling, pilates, yoga, dancing, meals, drinks out, theatre, shopping trips, girly chats the usual sorts of things. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128139**

**PUTTING THE SPARK BACK** Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 49, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360**

**MAKE A CONNECTION** Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 63, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW...** Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 65, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

**BRING THE SPARKLE BACK** Clean-shaven Thame male, 67, 6', medium-build, own bungalow, would like to meet a sociable man, who wishes to enjoy good times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119935**

**LET'S EXPLORE** Abingdon male, 68, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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**Output date:29/10/2012**

# CakeLeisure

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# Are you Hungary for rousing gypsy folk?

Budapest Café Orchestra

**AT this time of the year, when it's cold and grey and the leaves are falling, how about a jug of ale in the warm company of the Budapest Café Orchestra?**

The four-piece band recreates the traditional Balkan and Russian gypsy and folk music in a unique way, using the musical talents and sizzling hot enthusiasm of the four amazing instrumentalists.

The orchestra will be warming up The Mill Theatre, Banbury on Tuesday, November 6, with their incredible repertoire of music which includes some artful re-workings of masterpieces by the great Romantic composers.

"These are hi-kicking, gypsy beat specialists who have been making a huge hit all around the UK and it's great to have them in Banbury," said The Mill's programme manager Deborah Clarke.

"They play powerful, driving, folk-based music from Eastern Europe, inspired by the music of European gypsies and it is a new sound for our audience at The Mill.

"It's music that evokes vivid images of gypsy campfires and Hungarian café life. All that's going to be missing really is the goulash but the performance should be plenty hot and spicy enough!"

The Budapest Café Orchestra is led by Balkan Bob (Chris Garrick) on violin, Eddie 'the Dragon' Hession on accordion, The Sultan (Adrian Solotuhin) on guitars, saz and balalaika and Kelly 'the Klaw' Cantlon on double bass.

This fabulous outfit plays an impassioned but often tender mixture of Hungarian Czardas, Russian and Ukranian folk songs and dances from Romania and Bulgaria, as well as their own electrifying compositions.

They evoke scenes of 1920s central Europe and the sounds of skilful ethnic musicians recreating the rhythms and traditional songs handed down through history.

One reviewer described the orchestra's gig as 'four gifted musicians… splatter the musical tastebuds with committed numbers with wit and a twinkle in the eye… wrenching tones punctuated by a whiplash of frenzied foot-stamping and string-pulling'.

Beneath the trilby hats these are four serious – and seriously good – musicians with a special sense of humour, who set tunes from many countries to their own style of mischievous harmony and rhythm.

The music is specially amplified to turn the auditorium into a stone-vaulted bierkeller – described as 'quite magical'.

**Tuesday, November 6, 7.30pm. Tickets £12-14. Call the box office on 01295 279002**

■ *EMMERDALE*'S Hayley Tamaddon, *2point4 Children*'s Clare Buckfield and *Coronation Street*'s Vicky Entwistle step into the spotlight on stage at The Mill Theatre, Banbury tomorrow (Friday) in *The Vagina Monologues*.

The actresses have all turned their focus to this stage version of author Eve Ensler's *Vagina Interviews*, a witty and moving collection of tales that give voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, brave and thoroughly human stories.

**Tomorrow (Friday), 8pm. Tickets £22. Call the box office on 01295 279002.**

# Make a date for this cause

**Fancy some gossip with your coffee? Banbury Cross Players cordially invite you to join their very own Calendar Girls and the Ladies of Hook Norton WI.**

**Enjoy hot drinks and plentiful cake at Druckers Café in Market Place, Banbury, this Sunday between 11am and 2pm with all proceeds going to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.**

**The session will offer WI handy hints and tips and *Calendar Girls* rehearsal gossip.**

**BCP's production of *Calendar Girls* opens at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on November 23 and runs until December 1. Official Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research *Calendar Girls* merchandise on sale during the production.**

**■ Tickets available from the Mill box office. Call 01295 279002 or at *themillartscentre.co.uk*.**

Picture: Simon Lutter – Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

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# The class of the field

## Banbury squad win class victory in Shanghai

**BANBURY'S Aston Martin Racing team scored a dominant class victory in the Six Hours of Shanghai to take their first win of the year.**

Chacombe driver Darren Turner and Stefan Mücke had what amounted to a perfect weekend after qualifying in pole position and finishing 52 seconds ahead of the second placed No.77 Team Felbermayr-Proton Porsche.

The Anglo-German duo had a trouble-free run in the No.97 Aston Martin Vantage GTE but it certainly wasn't a walk in the park.

Both the Porsche and the No.52 AF Corse Ferrari had turns at the head of the classification during Sunday's six-hour race, but a faultless run and good pit work saw Aston Martin prevail over their rivals.

The result allowed Aston Martin Racing to secure second place in the FIA Endurance Trophy for LMGTE Pro teams in front of its German rivals.

In LMGTE Pro the dice had already been thrown in favour of AF Corse and Ferrari, the Italian constructor sealing the LMGTE Manufacturers' World Cup well before the end of the season.

While the AF Corse Ferraris saw the chequered flag first on five occasions this year, the Italian team weren't able to close out the 2012 season as they would have wished. The No.71 Ferrari 458 Italia of Andrea Bertolini, a former FIA GT World Champion, and Olivier Beretta finished on the third step of the podium but more than a lap down on the first two in class.

Worse still, for a team which is used to great success, the No.51 sister car of Giancarlo Fisichella and Gianmaria Bruni lost eight laps in the pits to repair a broken alternator and then had to retire because of an oil leak.

The 25,000 Chinese visitors over the first Six Hours of Shanghai weekend were treated to their first Le Mans experience and the next visit, on November 10, 2013, will undoubtedly see even more fans travelling to the Shanghai International Circuit next year.

LEFT: Banbury's Aston Martin Vantage GTE BELOW: Driver Darren Turner


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New Year Rhine Cruise

Departs 29 December 2012

A resolution made now to spend New Year on the Rhine will be the best decision made all year, as you soak up the festive atmosphere surrounding the medieval town of Koblenz and enjoy a cracking New Year's Eve party on board our ship.

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- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard the mps Amsterdam
- Full board during your cruise
- Entertainment every night of your cruise
- Visits to Andernach, Rüdesheim, Koblenz & Cologne
- New Year's Eve Party

CODE: OX

Christmas Rhine Cruise

Departs 23 December 2012

Memories of last-minute food shopping and endless cooking will fade away on our cruise through the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine Valley, as everything associated with the perfect Christmas is taken care of.

Price includes

- Executive return coach travel from your chosen departure point
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# STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

**ARIES** Mar 21-Apr 19

Over the coming days you are going to have to prepare yourself for things not going entirely to plan. Flirtations get more than a little interesting midweek. Try to get any important tasks out of the way at the weekend so that you don't spend the rest of next week worrying about things that are clearly not in your control. Give me a ring now to hear why you must avoid any telling of lies.

0906 585 4360

**TAURUS** Apr 20-May 20

Stop looking to others for advice when the truth is that only you have the answers you are seeking my friend. Try to take your time when making new friends and don't let them know everything about your past. They are unlikely to have told you everything about theirs! Besides, a little mystery can add fun to the melting pot. Ring now so I can tell you things you need to know.

0906 585 4361

**GEMINI** May 21-Jun 20

The things that you do at this time are unlikely to be forgotten in a hurry. You may be best to leave any shortcuts until the stars are feeling more accommodating. Don't be too quick to join in the slander that friends are giving to a new face, they are likely to have misjudged them, as you'll soon find out. Give me a ring now to hear why you'd be wise to check your passport is in date.

0906 585 4362

**CANCER** Jun 21-Jul 22

At this time, the past is more relevant and the planets indicate that you may spend much of your time trying to figure out where one particular relationship went wrong. Paperwork is more important than usual as is keeping a professional attitude. Slow down with your decision making until after Friday or you could end up making a decision you cannot reverse. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4363

**LEO** Jul 23-Aug 22

Someone from your past is back, but for all the wrong reasons. Please don't pretend that you don't know everyone is talking about you. You even seem to be proud of what is happening in your life but caution, the approving faces may not have approving words behind them so make sure your actions are ones you yourself are satisfied with. Phone now so I can show you where your future lies.

0906 585 4364

**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Over recent months, your life does not seem to be taking the direction that you had hoped. However, this is a time for planning and not for doing. Mercury hinders but also helps and life will be giving us all a bit of a bumpy ride. By watching and listening you can turn everything to your advantage, so think positive. Phone now to hear how Saturn promises you the chance of promotion.

0906 585 4365

**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Your ruling planet Venus makes you irresistible to new faces. You have one of the best forecasts for the coming week as offers galore come your way and make it difficult for you to make a bad decision. Be prepared for a few delays though. Someone you still owe an apology to is still waiting and the sooner you make it the sooner you'll learn their secret. Call now to better handle family.

0906 585 4366

**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

The current line up is going to be making it easy for friends to let you down so leave all arrangements as loose ones and you will not end up feeling dejected. Love is in the air and will be offering you some very ambitious plans that may mean you acquiring a new look or item of clothing. Phone me now to hear why it's worth making your family a priority at the weekend.

0906 585 4367

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

There is not a lot of organisation evident in your chart so you may find yourself mislaying things of importance. If there is something you have to remember to do then write it down for your own sake and so that you do not blemish the professional image superiors have of you. Phone now to separate the fake friends from the real ones. You know it's time, don't you?

0906 585 4368

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

New ways to do your job put you back in the driving seat. Don't feel disheartened if you find yourself going over work that you have already done. Better to go back over your efforts than to have them rejected completely. You can always find a positive side, and for you that will be in making your work perfect instead of just acceptable. Phone me now so we can work as a team.

0906 585 4369

**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't let the Moon push you into arguments with loved ones. Stop and ask yourself if you really mean the words that are on the tip of your tongue. If you can have patience with them they are sure to show you how much they appreciate it with a surprise that should arrive by Thursday Aquarius. Give me a ring now to hear why I'm so sure you must not entertain 'that' ex.

0906 585 4370

**PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20

I know you may not realise it but you are not being the kindest or most patient of signs over the coming days and so the old method of counting to ten is going to be your best bet if you want to be sure of a harmonious week. Have faith in a friend. What they are telling you is not just malicious gossip. Phone me now to hear why you have so much to look forward to this Christmas.

0906 585 4371

# Drama awash with waves of emotion

*RUST AND BONE* (15, 122 mins) Drama/Romance. Marion Cotillard, Matthias Schoenaerts, Armand Verdure, Corinne Masiero, Mourad Frarema, Celine Sallette. Director: Jacques Audiard.

Marion Cotillard, as Stephanie, in a scene from *Rust And Bone*

Love is messy and chaotic in Jacques Audiard's grimly compelling romance about two damaged souls who are thrown together just as their lives are falling apart.

Shot without a single drop of sentiment but a great deal of empathy, *Rust And Bone* captures the passion and roller-coaster emotions of the wayward characters as they wrestle with their predicaments.

Marion Cotillard, who won an Academy Award as Edith Piaf in *La Vie En Rose* and starred alongside Christian Bale this summer in *The Dark Knight Rises*, is a strong contender for another golden statuette.

She delivers a mesmerising and emotionally raw performance here as an aquatic trainer facing adversity.

Luminous big-screen beauties, who are physically or emotionally disfigured for their art, have always been catnip to Oscar voters.

Equally powerful is co-star Matthias Schoenaerts, who catalyses electrifying sexual chemistry with Cotillard in their on-screen couplings.

Sex scenes are sweaty, frenetic and almost animalistic – a tangle of limbs to mirror the cascade of emotions that consumes the couple and propels them down an unexpected path towards something that might be called a relationship.

Stephanie (Cotillard) trains killer whales but her close working relationship with these majestic creatures ends when one orca severs her legs, resulting in a double amputation.

An earlier one-night stand with hulking Belgian brute Ali (Matthias Schoenaerts) – a single father who doesn't know how to care for his six-year-old son Sam (Armand Verdure) – sows the seeds of an unconventional romance.

He has come to Antibes to forge a better life for the boy and is crashing with his estranged sister Anna (Corinne Masiero) and her husband, Foued (Mourad Frarema).

Ali ekes out a meagre living as a nightclub bouncer, making extra money in bare-knuckle brawls that leave him beaten to a bloody pulp.

When he encounters Stephanie after her accident, his complete lack of pity is a tonic.

"You want to make love? You call, you tell me," Ali tells her matter of factly.

Adapted from a short story collection by Craig Davidson, *Rust And Bone* eschews crocodile tears by observing Stephanie and Ali's dalliances with cool detachment.

Cotillard's vulnerability contrasts with Schoenaerts's rugged masculinity, and their scenes together ring true as Ali literally carries her towards physical rehabilitation.

"You OK, Robocop?" he asks tenderly as Stephanie acclimatises to her prosthetic limbs.

Audiard directs with aplomb – the scene in which Stephanie loses her legs, shot from the bottom of the crystal blue whale pool, is both beautiful and shocking.

He delivers another sharp jolt in the closing minutes, shattering any illusions that there is anything more than a pin-prick of hope at the end of a very long tunnel for both characters.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ODEON INTERMISSION

## Win tickets

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the *Banbury Cake* and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family favourites.

Yes, every week in the *Banbury Cake* we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.

And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *Rust and Bone*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horse Fair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

- **Marion Cotillard is the winner of which award?**
  - a. Golden Globe?
  - b. BAFTA?
  - c. Academy Award?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

# CakeWhat's on

## Theatre

**The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:**
Nov 1, *How To Catch A Star*. 11.30am, 2pm. Suitable for two- to seven-year-olds. £6, family £22.
Nov 2, *The Vagina Monologues*. £20. 8pm.
Nov 3, Celtic Dream. 8pm. £22.50, concession £20.
Nov 8, *You All Know Me - I'm Jack Rub*. 8pm. £10, concession £6.
Nov 10, *There Was An Old Woman Who Swallowed A Fly*. A play especially for parents to enjoy with their children. 2pm. £7, family £23.
Nov 10, Hardeep Singh Kohli, *Indian Takeaway*. 7.30pm. £15, concession £13.
Nov 14, Kevin Tomlinson and Abi Hood, *On The Edge*. 7.30pm. £12, £10. Box office: 01295 279002.

## Music

**SATURDAY: General Foods Sports and Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury:** Banbury Soul Club celebrates its ninth anniversary. 8pm. £5 at the door. *07528 285977 or 07980 585051.*

**Sun Inn, High Street, Hook Norton:** Kev G. 9pm. Singer and guitarist performing covers. Free admission. *01608 737570.*

**The Wheatsheaf, 68 George Street, Banbury:** ABBA's Angels - tribute group (have appeared on BBC and Sky1 TV, *Star for a Night*). £12 at the door, £6. 8.30pm. *01295 266525.*

## Cinema

**Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury:** Skyfall, 12A, Daily 1.30, 5, 8.15, 8.45pm. Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 2D, PG, Fri-Sun 11.30am, Daily 4.15pm. Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D, PG, Daily 2, 6.30pm. Kids' Club: Top Cat 2D, U, Fri-Sun 11am. Senior Screen: Anna Karenina, 12A, Wed 11am. Call box office to check schedule: 0871 224 4007.

**The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** To Rome With Love, 12A, Sat-Sun 7.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

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## Special Thanks

DEAR HEART OF JESUS

in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S


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07508 095296
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07943 127901
£2,450

## Citroen

**CITROEN SAXO**

2002 1.1L petrol manual silver Saxo Forte 3dr 2 owners, FSH, front fogs, MoT & taxed, lovely condition, overseas move forced sale, 77,500 miles
01869 277929
£1,595

## Commercial Vehicles

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1.9 Diesel van, 52 reg, silver, MoT August 13, new front tyres, new battery, reliable work van
07778 834776
£1,600 ono

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**FIAT PUNTO**
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# MOTORS

## Ford

### FORD FIESTA

2001 X Reg, 1.2, 3 Door Hatchback, Alloy wheels, Good Condition, FSH, MOT January 2013, Central Locking, No tax, Cheap insurance, 58,000 miles

**07771907991**

**£1,250**

### FORD FOCUS

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**01235 850054**

**£4,950**

### FORD FOCUS

White 2010 1.6S Focus, 3 door, FSH, 2010, 5 Speed Manual Petrol, C/RL, Alarm, Aircon, Alloys, CD, 38,000 miles

**07842 220328**

**£7,950**

### FORD KA

Black, 2000, 5 speed manual, petrol, 6 months tax, years MOT. Good little runner. Ideal first car. 65,000 miles

**07811 139564**

**£1,000**

## Ford

### FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE

1.4 3dr 07 57 Ocean Blue , Tech pack with many extras!,h/f screen,pas,e/w,2 rcl keys,1 onr, 74kmls,VGC MOT/5mths Tax

**TEL:01249 720818 / 07969 068246**

**£3500**

### FORD FIESTA VAN

Courier Diesel, X reg, tax Feb 2013, MOT April 2013, low mileage only 72,000

**Tel: 07761 123448**

**£720**

### FORD FOCUS

2001, 1.6, auto, 70,000 miles, Tax June '13, MOT June '13, good condition.

**Tel: 01793 853552**

**£900 ono**

### FORD FOCUS C MAX

Zetec, 1.6, Diesel, 5dr, 2005, Silver, Manual, years Tax and MOT, Airbag, ABS, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L, excellent condition

**Tel: 07584 095726**

**£3450 ovno**

## Jeep

### JEEP CHEROKEE

2006, brown, 2/4x4, 6-speed manual, 2.4 petrol, alarm, air con, alloys, radio/CD, MOT/tax 02/2013, FSH, Thule roof bars & box available separately, 29,500 miles

**07769 906098**

**£6,250**

## Mercedes-Benz

### MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS

One lady owner, silver, 2008, auto, petrol, alarm, a/c, alloys, panoramic elec s/r, CD, e/w, folding wing mirrors, ex cond, fsh, MOT and Tax 31 Mar. 42000 miles

**Tel: 07717 758220**

**£6,900**

## Peugeot

### PEUGEOT 206

1360cc. Pale blue, 2004, 5 Speed Man Petrol, c/l, pas, e/w, Aircon, CD/radio. MOT Sept '13. Except well maint 29,000 miles, careful lady owner

**Tel: 01225 868132**

**£3,195**

### PEUGEOT 406

1.8L. P Reg. Blue. Petrol. 136,000 miles. MOT Dec '12. 1 lady driver for 6 years. Excellent cond. Very clear car.

**Tel: 07778 974700**

**£545 ono**

### PEUGEOT 306 XS

N Reg 1.8 red, 66,000 miles, Tax March 13, MoT May 13, regularly serviced VGC, garaged. CD player, immobilizer, C/L, 2 owners for 13 years)

**07707 073815**

**£695 ono**

## Peugeot

### PEUGEOT MERIDIAN 306

W Reg 1800. Metallic maroon, 54,000 miles, FSH, alloy wheels, half leather seats, garaged, taxed and MoT June 2013. CD Player, air con, c/l Genuine reason for sale

**01235 814074**

**£1,400 ono**

## Renault

### RENAULT CLIO

1.1L , 2000, FSH, lady owner, Tax and Mot, C/Locking, P/Steering E/windows, Radio/CD, cam belt change only 77k miles, choice of 2

**01235 771030 or 07882 274269**

**£1295 T**

### RENAULT TWINGO EXTREME

2008, 58 reg. red, 1.2 Petrol, Manual, Tax 6 months, MoT 12 months, under 6,000 miles, FSH, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, CD, C/L, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L

**01865 451596**

**£4,250**

### RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIC 1.4

05 Reg, Mot May '13, Tax Sept '13, 56kmiles, 2 Lady Owners, FSH, V.G.C

**07535 622006**

**£2,195 ono**

## Renault

### RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC

2.0 VVT Dynamique 5dr 2006, Black, petrol, manual, Tax & MOT March '13, airbag, alarm, abs, CD, e/m, e/w, PAS, rc/l

**07904 401411**

**£2800 ono**

## Rover

### ROVER 400 SERIES

V reg, Red, 5 Door Hatchback, Central Locking, P.A.S, Very Clean Throughout, 12mths Mot, Taxed

**07598 700645**

**£650**

## Vauxhall

### VAUXHALL ASTRA

1.8SXI, Blue, 2002, 5-speed, Manual, Petrol, PAS, Central Locking, Aircon, Alloys, CD, 3-door, Feb-13 Tax, Aug-13 MOT, FSH, 1 careful owner,122,000 miles

**07803 932265**

**£1,000**

### VAUXHALL ASTRA

Astra Estate. W Reg. Good runner. 91,000 miles. Tax & MOT until April 2013. One family owned. £395, 91,000 miles

**01235543189**

**£395**

## Vauxhall

### VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6

8v, 2001, X Reg, 105000m, Silver, Petrol, 5drs, FSH, Excellent condition

**01380 812570**

**£1000 ono**

### VAUXHALL ASTRA

1.8 Auto 54 5dr hatchback, Breeze Blue, 50,200K regularly serviced, new cambelt, Petrol, ABS, PAS, RC/L, alarm CD /Radio, Mot Tax Dec

**01235 815733**

**£3250**

### VAUXHALL ASTRA

2003, Silver, 1389cc, petrol, manl. alarm. A/C. C/D. RC/L. Just serviced. Tax Oct, 8 mnths MOT. Used daily. Good condition. Ill health forces sales. 2nd owner.

**Tel: 01793 886946**

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## Vauxhall

### VAUXHALL CORSA

1200cc. 2001, Y Reg. Silver. MOT Oct 13. Tax Feb '13, 3 door hatchback, petrol, CD/Radio. 80,000 miles. Very good condition.

**Tel: 01793 750780 07976 374035**

**£1,495**

## Volkswagen

### VOLKSWAGEN GOLF V5

2001, 2.3 litre, 10 months tax, 10 months MOT, petrol, black, leather upholstery, CD, air conditioning, electric windows, sunroof.

**01380 830695**

**£1500 ono**

## Volkswagen

### VOLKSWAGEN POLO

Black, 1996, 5 Speed Manual Petrol, FSH, VGC, MOT March 13, CD, New Tyres, back of exhaust, recent service, lady owner,116057 miles

**01993811247**

**£899**

### V.W. GOLF 1.6 SE

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| 2006 | 56 | **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4**, Metallic Grey, 5 Door, One owner, Very good service record, PAS, Electric windows, Aircon, Radio/CD, Alloys, Lovely condition throughout, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear | **£3,795** |
| 2003 | 53 | **FORD FIESTA 1.4 'FLAME'**, 5 Door, Dark Metallic Blue, Very good service history, Aircon, Alloys, Remote central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very nice small car, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear | **£3,295** |
| 2003 | 53 | **FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC**, Silver, 5 door, Lovely condition, Aircon, Remote central locking, Alloys, Electric windows, PAS, Radio/CD, Approximately 75000 miles, Very popular 5 door hatchback, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear | **£2,750** |
| 2003 | 03 | **FIAT PUNTO 1.9 DIESEL**, Metallic Red, 5 door, PAS, Central locking, Electric windows, Radio/CD, Good service record, Approximately 55000 recorded miles, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear | **£2,450** |
| 2001 | 51 | **VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE**, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Air con, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cam belt, HPI clear | **Arriving soon** |
| 2002 | 52 | **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LS**, Silver, 5 Door, Air conditioning, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Local car, Sold with a new MOT, a service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear | **£1,895** |
| 2002 | 52 | **NISSAN MICRA 1.0 TEMPEST**, Blue, 3 Door, PAS, Sunroof very tidy car sold with a new MoT and a full service HPI Clear | **£1,895** |
| 2000 | X | **FORD KA 1.3**, Blue, Very tidy small car, PAS, Central locking, Electric windows | **Arriving weekend** |

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**†Corsa Limited Edition £2800 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £185. ‡Astra GTC Sport £5500 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £209. Model shown has 19 inch alloy wheels available at an extra cost. ^Corsa SXi £2780 customer deposit followed by 60 monthly payments of £179.** Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models, Ampera or VXR8. Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. *Term can be from 24 – 60 months. **Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21 -75 (motor policy only). Drivers must have held a valid full UK license for a minimum of 2 years. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.

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| 2003 | 53 | **RENAULT SCENIC1.5 DCI,** red | £1499 |
| 2002 | 02 | **PEUGEOT 406 2.0 HDI ESTATE,** blue | £1499 |
| 2002 | 02 | **FIAT PUNTO 1.2,** 5 door, blue | £1299 |
| 2004 | 04 | **RENAULT SCENIC1.4,** red | £1199 |
| 2000 | X | **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 AUTO,** blue | £999 |
| 2003 | 03 | **ROVER 45 1.8,** green | £999 |
| 2001 | 51 | **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6,** silver | £999 |
| 2001 | 51 | **TOYOTA AVENSIS,** red | £999 |
| 2001 | 51 | **PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE 2.0,** blue | £999 |
| 2000 | X | **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DTI,** silver | £999 |
| 2002 | 02 | **ROVER 25,** 5 door, silver | £999 |
| 1994 | L | **FORD GRANADA 2.0 ESTATE,** white | £699 |
| 2000 | W | **DAEWOO LAENOS,** 5 door, silver | £499 |
| 2000 | X | **VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.6 V6 ESTATE,** blue | £499 |
| 2001 | 51 | **RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE,** silver | £499 |
| 2000 | W | **CITROEN XANTIA 2.0 HDI,** black | £499 |

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| 04 | 54 | **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI S,** Silver, 5 Door, Elec Windows, CD Player, Airbags | £26 £5499 |
| 06 | 56 | **PEUGEOT 307 S 1.6 HDI,** 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags | £25 £4999 |
| 03 | 03 | **FORD FOCUS 1.8 LX TDCI 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags | £19 £3999 |

### PETROL CARS & ESTATES

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 06 | 55 | **AUDI TT 1.8T QUATTRO 190BHP,** Silver, Full Heated, Black Leather, A/C, 3.2 Alloys, Stunning! | £37 | £7999 |
| 07 | 57 | **PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5 DOOR,** Dark Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows, Only 34000 Miles | £28 | £5999 |
| 04 | 54 | **VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 ENJOY,** Silver, Elec Windows, CD, Alloys, Low Miles | £28 | £3499 |
| 07 | 56 | **PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags | £27 | £5699 |
| 06 | 55 | **FORD MONDEO 1.8 5 DOOR ZETEC,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows | £19 | £3999 |
| 03 | 03 | **FORD FIESTA 1.3 FINESSE,** 5 Door, Dark Red, A/C, Ideal First Car | £17 | £3699 |
| 04 | 54 | **FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags | £17 | £3699 |
| 02 | 52 | **ROVER 75 1.8 CLASSIC ESTATE,** Met Gold, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows | £16 | £3499 |
| 04 | 04 | **VAUXHALL VECTRA 3.2 V6 ELITE,** Gold, Full Leather, CD, Alloys, A/C, Superb Condition | £15 | £3299 |
| 03 | 53 | **RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags | £14 | £2999 |
| 04 | 04 | **FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags | £13 | £2699 |
| 02 | 02 | **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 LS 5 DOOR,** Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags | £12 | £2499 |
| 01 | 51 | **FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC,** 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows | £11 | £2299 |
| 03 | 53 | **VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRi,** Blue, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows | £11 | £2299 |
| 02 | 02 | **PEUGEOT 106 1.1 INDEPENDENCE 3 DOOR,** Blue, CD, Ideal First Car | £11 | £2299 |
| 02 | 52 | **FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX GREEN,** 5 Door, A/C, CD, Airbags, Elec Windows | £9 | £1999 |
| 02 | 52 | **ROVER 75 1.8T AUTO,** Black, Full Cream Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys | £9 | £1999 |

### MPV'S & 4X4'S

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 02 | 52 | **HONDA STREAM 1.7 SE 7 SEAT,** White, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows | £19 | £3999 |
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## DEBT CHARITY WARNS OF HUGE RISE IN TENANT ARREARS

**Whilst property group LSL is reporting that rents are continuing to rise on a monthly basis, and are at a record high, a debt counselling charity is warning of a huge increase in rent arrears which will keep people off the housing ladder for the foreseeable future.**

The Money Advice Trust says the number of calls to its national debtline service from people with rent arrears has 'exploded' over the last five years.

Calls from people with rent arrears have increased 28% over the last two years and 9% in the last 12 months. Nearly 10% of all people calling National Debtline have rent arrears, compared to 6% in 2007 and 8% last year.

Additionally, figures suggest tenants have broader debt problems, with renters for the first time accounting for more than half of the total calls.

Maria Lucas, Managing Director of Let Lucas Rental Specialists, said "It is clearly difficult for people to save the money for a deposit to buy a house at the moment which has led to more people remaining in the rental market for longer. Where there is limited supply and greater demand, rising prices will always follow.

"Rising rent prices are not only making it harder for people to save for a deposit, they're also pushing more people in debt.

"This is a difficult spiral; with increasing numbers of people entering the renting market, and fewer people leaving it, it is hard to see how the situation will improve.

"Many people's budgets are tight already with stagnant earnings growth and inflation hitting their income. Rising renting costs can push individuals and households over the edge and into an unmanageable situation yet landlords can protect themselves & their income against the risks by planning ahead."

**Letting is a complex, specialist field incorporating more than 50 Acts of Parliament and 70 sets of regulations which landlords should be aware of, Contact Maria Lucas, Managing Director of Let Lucas Rental Specialists for a no obligation consultation on 01295 234717.**

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3 BED HOUSE LET FOR £1250 PCM AT 1ST VIEWING!

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The Sign of Professional Letting

Let Lucas™ Rental Specialists

We market all properties on the following websites:

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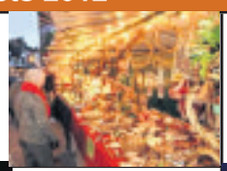
Saturday 22nd December 2012 – One Night Bed & Buffet Breakfast

## Christmas Shoppers & Festive Markets 2012

**Camden Market London**
Saturday 24th November 2012
**£22.50**

**Merry Hill Shopping Centre**
*Dudley*
Sunday 25th November
**£17.50**

**Worcester Victorian Xmas Fayre**
Friday 30th November 2012
**£22.50**



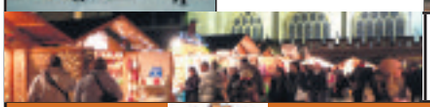
**Cheltenham & Xmas Market**
Saturday 1st December 2012
**£17.50**

**Capital City, London**
Sunday 2nd December 2012
**£22.50**

**Milton Keynes**
Tuesday 4th December 2012
**£15.00**

**Winchester Christmas Market**
Saturday 8th December 2012
**£22.50**

**London & Winter Wonderland**
Sunday 16th December 2012
**£22.50**



**Historic Bath Christmas Market**
*Sunday 2nd December 2012* - **£24.50**

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**Sunday 2nd December 2012** **Only £49.50**

## Fantastic Shows!

### Top Musical Show!

Top Hat The Musical
Aldwych Theatre
Wednesday 13th March 2013 -
£59.50
( Top Price Stalls Ticket )

### Bodyguard The Musical

A NEW MUSICAL!
Featuring a Multitude of Whitney Houston's Greatest Hits!

Tuesday 18th December 2012
Special Deal Only **£59.50**

### POPULAR LONDON SHOWS!

**Singin In The Rain**
Palace Theatre
Wednesday 13th March 2013
£59.50
( Stalls )

**War Horse**
New London Theatre
Wednesday 13th March 2013
£67.50
( Stalls )

### Disney On Ice – Let's Party!

A spectacular celebration on Ice starring 65 of your Disney Favourites – Join Alice and the Mad Hatter – Princess Tiana and Prince Naveen – Lilo & Stitch – Woody, Jessie & Buzz to name a few – an ideal Christmas present!!

**Sunday 24th February 2013 – ( Matinee )**
**LG Arena Birmingham**
**Adult : £42.50 Child : £39.50**

### 6th Incredible year - Strictly Come Dancing Live 2013

6th Incredible year – bringing the Strictly magic to the fans – enjoy the energy and excitement of this wonderful show!
Sunday 20th January 2013 ( matinee )
NIA Birmingham
Only £**69.50**

PICK UP POINTS: **Brackley** - Market Place **Middleton Cheney** - The Library **Banbury** - Bus Station

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